

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1520

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR ASST. SECY. MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, DJ, ET, SO, US
SUBJ: BRIEFING ON MISSION OF SPECIAL EMISSARY TO SOMALIA
DELIVERED TO ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

REF: STATE 081725

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD BERHANE DERESSE RECEIVED ME MAR 31 FOR MY BRIEFING ON SPECIAL EMISSARY'S MISSION TO SOMALIA. I PREFACED MY PRESENTATION TO BERHANE WITH LANGUAGE PROVIDED REFTEL, PARA 2, ESPECIAL STRESSING INFORMATION I WAS ABOUT TO PROVIDE SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE WITHIN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA. BERHANE ACCEPTED THIS CAVEAT IN GOOD FAITH AND I PROCEEDED TO BRIEF HIM ALONG GUIDELINES REFTEL, PARA 3.

2. BERHANE SAID HE APPRECIATED BRIEFING ON EMISSARY'S MISSION AND WOULD KEEP IT AS CONFIDENTIAL AS POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT HE WOULD BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF FONMIN. AS IN AST, BERHANE SAID HIS REACTION TO BRIEFING WAS ONLY PRELIMINARY AND NOT NECESSARILY

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OFFICIAL PMGSE REACTION. (HOWEVER, BERHANE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACCURATE IN REFLECTING HIS GOVT'S EVENTUAL "OFFICAL" REACTION TO US POLICIES.

3. ON PARA 3, POINT A, BERHANE AGREED THAT IMPORTANCE WHICH PRES. CARTER ATTACHES TO SOMALIA'S RESPECT OF NEIGHBORS' TERRITORIES IS CORRECT AND PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION OF SUCH IS VERY POS-

TIVE. ON POINT B, BERHANE FAVORABLY TOOK NOTE OF RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA, BUT STRONGLY OBJECTED TO ANY ASSISTANCE IN MILITARY FIELD, EVEN IF ONLY OF A DEFENSIVE NATURE. HE SAID SOMALIA IS ALREADY ARMED BEYOND ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEEDS AND THAT ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE FUTURE SOMALI MILITARY ADVENTURISM. ON POINT C, BERHANE REITERATED POSITIVE ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR SOMALIA, BUT NOTED AMUSINGLY THAT CLAIMED NUMBER OF "REFUGEES" WAS INCREASING ENORMOUSLY EACH DAY AND RISKED POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING ENTIRE SOMALI POPULATION. ON POINT D, HE REPEATED PREVIOUS ARGUMENT AGAINST ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHATSOEVER BEING GIVEN TO SOMALIA. HE SAID THIS WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE SOMALIA, EITHER INTENTIONALLY OR NOT, TO PURSUE ITS IRREDENTIST CLAIMS AGAINST ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, NOT JUST ETHIOPIA. TURNING TO FINAL POINT, BERHANE AGREED THAT UNDERLYING PROBLEM OF HORN NEEDED LONG-TERM SOLUTION AND THAT PORTION OF BORDER BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA WAS STILL NOT DEMARCATED. HE SAID THOUGH, THAT SOMALIA WAS UNDERLYING PROBLEM, AND IF SOMALIA WOULD ONLY ACCEPT PRINCIPLES IN UN CHARTER AND PAST OAU DECISIONS CONCERNING NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER SOVERIGN STATE AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES, THEN PROBLEMS OF REGION WOULD EVAPORATE.

4. BERHANE SEEMED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF BRIEFING AND OF OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT PMGSE POSITION ON SUPPLYING OF ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT ALL TO SOMALIA. HE ONCE AGAIN STRONGLY EMPHASIZED ANY SORT OF MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, EVEN IF IT WAS OF DEFENSIVE

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FENSIVE EQUIPMENT ONLY, WOULD SERVE AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. FACT THAT US WAS REQUIRING RESPECT OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF COUNTRIES IN REGION WAS SEEN IN POSITIVE LIGHT. ADDITIONAL FACT THAT NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON FUTURE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF SOMALI UNWILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE THIS PRINCIPLE AT THIS TIME, WILL PROBABLY REINFORCE ETHIOPIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT SOMALI INTENTIONS IN AREA. MATHERON

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